

*St Mary the Virgin & All Souls Church
Highbury Road, Bulwell, Nottingham
NG6 9AD*

“THE CHURCH ON THE HILL”

PARISH MAGAZINE

August 2026 Vol. 156 No 8



*St Mary's is a down-to-
earth Christian Community
seeking, serving and
worshipping God by
sharing the love of Jesus*



CHURCH SERVICES & GROUPS

WEDNESDAY

Little Acorns Toddler Group 9.30am – 11am

Email Zoe Elliott at: zoejackson000@gmail.com for more information

Bellringing (Practice Night)

(all ages from 11 years, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult). 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Tel: Tower Captain, Michael Varney 07858 653002

THURSDAY

Midweek Mass

9.30am – 10.00am (Said. First Thurs of the month follows the Book of Common Prayer.
Last Thursday of the month Walsingham Mass)

Care Home Service

10.00am – 11.30am at one of the local Care Homes

Bible Study/Nurture Courses

2.00pm Please contact the Vicar for more information

Pub Social

7.30pm First Thursday of the Month at the William Peveril (Wetherspoons) in Bulwell

SATURDAY

10am – 12noon Church Open for Prayer 10am – 12pm **every 2nd Saturday**

Beginning with Tierce, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and the Angelus

Muddy Church

11.30am Third Saturday of the month during term time

Email Zoe Elliott at: zoejackson000@gmail.com for more information

SUNDAY – SERVICES

10am – 11am First Sunday of the Month – Family Service (and Baptisms)

10am – 11am Second Sunday of the month – Parish Mass (sung) with Whiz Kids Sunday
School during Mass

10am – 11am Third Sunday of the Month – Family Service (led by our Whiz Kids Sunday
School)

10am – 11am Fourth Sunday of the month - Parish Mass (sung) with Whiz Kids Sunday
School during Mass

10am – 11am Fifth Sunday of the Month – Healing Service (with Anointing)
with Whiz Kids Sunday School during the service

Please see notice sheets for any additional and seasonal services.

BELLRINGING

Sunday Service Ringing 9.30am – 10am. Practice Evening (Weds) 7.30pm – 9.00pm

(all ages from 11 years, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult)

Tel: Tower Captain, Michael Varney 07858 653002

SERVERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please contact the Vicar for more information

CHURCH CHOIR

(Ages 11 and upwards)

Your Vicar Writes

August is traditionally a month of changing gears. For many of us, it brings the promise of holidays, a slower pace, and a chance to step away from our usual busy routines. It is a time when the relentless rhythm of our to-do lists finally seems to quiet down. In the Gospels, Jesus frequently invites His followers to step back. In Mark 6: 31, Jesus says to his disciples, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."



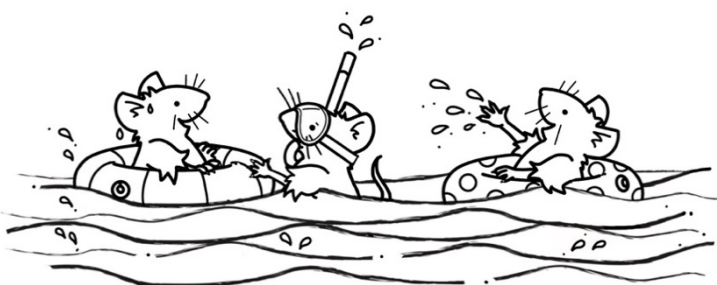
Even in the midst of his earthly ministry, Jesus recognised that constant work without renewal leads to spiritual and physical burnout.

We often view rest as a luxury or simply the absence of work but, in a spiritual sense, rest is a discipline. It creates the necessary space for us to hear the voice of God. When we are constantly busy, our prayers can become rushed, and we can easily lose sight of the beauty of God's creation right in front of us.

This month, whether you are travelling to a new place or enjoying a quiet 'staycation' at home, I encourage you to embrace a 'sacred pause'. Let your holiday be a holy-day.

When you sit quietly in the sunshine, or take a walk in the countryside, or enjoy the peace of an empty church, use that time to rest in God's presence. Allow God to replenish your energy and restore your soul. As you step away from your regular duties, look for God in the everyday moments of beauty, laughter, and relaxation.

And remember, God never takes a holiday from loving you.



May your August be a time of genuine refreshment, peace, and renewed faith.

Every blessing, Fr Andrew



High Days and Holy Days

6th August – The Transfiguration of Jesus

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention on Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the

same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From our mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

11th August – St Clare of Assisi

Assisi, a beautiful town in the Italian province of Umbria, was the birthplace in the 12th century of two of that country's greatest saints, Francis and Clare. Francis first, and then Clare, discovered the liberating effect of release from the burden of wealth.

For them, simplicity, or godly poverty, was the way to blessing. Their followers – Francis's monks, the Franciscans, and Clare's nuns, the 'Poor Clares' as they were known, set themselves to live without any kind of luxury. This freed them, they believed, for a life of prayer and service, to care for the poor around them without distraction. They built no elaborate basilicas, though one was erected after the death of Francis, strictly against his wishes, to surround the simple chapel (his 'hovel') where he and his followers were based. The present-day house of the Poor Clares is a perfect example of the sheer beauty of simplicity.

Their lifestyle, their message, their simplicity of life and love of the Creation and its creatures, offered a striking alternative to the society around them, where wealth (which Francis had enjoyed but rejected at his conversion) and poverty and sickness lived side by side. It has to be said, too, that their message is on collision course with the values and goals of much of the western world today. Simplicity of life and affluence don't sit easily together.

31st August – Aidan, the man who brought Christianity to England

31st August is the feast of St Aidan, who brought Christianity to northern England. He is a strong contender for the title of the first English bishop. Not that honours meant a great deal to this austere but captivating character.

In 635 he came to Northumbria at the invitation of the local ruler, Oswald. Oswald had spent several years of his childhood on Iona, and when he succeeded to the throne of his northern kingdom he was shrewd enough to realise that the Christian faith would be an ideal unifying force to pacify rival tribes of warlords.

Oswald's invitation was not immediately successful. The first missionary from Iona returned in despair, claiming that the barbarity of the Northumbrians made them unconvertible. But as Aidan listened, he felt the unmistakable call of God to try again.

"Perhaps you were too harsh on them," he found himself suggesting to the travel-stained missionary. Shortly afterwards, Aidan found himself at the head of a party of brothers heading for Northumbria. He was never to see his beloved Iona again.

The monks made the long journey to Northumbria on foot, singing psalms as they went. Their need to ward off the powers of evil with prayer was genuine, for these were dangerous times to travel through remote country unarmed. They arrived safely at Oswald's castle in Bamburgh, where he offered them lavish hospitality and assumed that they would 'found' their community there.

However, the brothers realised that to live under the king's protection would make it difficult to avoid the world's temptations and establish a rapport with the local people. They saw the tidal island of Lindisfarne on the horizon and chose it as their base. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Aidan was much loved as a teacher and evangelist; though stern in his own self-discipline, he was prepared to travel to the most inaccessible

villages, where he cared for the local people with compassion and gentleness. In time, his influence grew, and noble people joined the stream of visitors to Lindisfarne.

After Oswald's death in 642, his brother Oswin succeeded him as king. Oswin was concerned about Aidan's habit of walking everywhere. The saint was ageing rapidly, his body weakened by years of harsh fasting and exposure to the elements. Oswin wondered what would happen to him one day on the road, and also he felt that such a lowly means of travel was not appropriate for a bishop. So, he gave Aidan one of his finest horses, complete with a beautifully worked saddle and bridle.

Aidan did not feel able to risk offending the king by spurning his generosity, but he rode out of the palace with a heavy heart. He knew that people would relate to him differently now that he had the trappings of affluence, and that it would be dangerous to stop and rest with such valuable belongings beside him.

The king had intended to give him comfort, but his gesture had had the opposite effect. Aidan had learnt that possessions, and the need to protect them, make it more difficult to follow God with an undivided heart. The story goes that he gave the horse, complete with saddle, to the first beggar he met outside the palace gates.

A more pragmatic Christian might have reasoned that keeping on the right side of Oswin would lead to opportunities that were too valuable to risk. Indeed, the king was angry when he heard what Aidan had done. "That horse was fit for a king, not for some vagabond," he protested. "I could have found you an old nag if you wanted to give it away." Aidan's reply was simply, "What do you think, O King? Is the son of a mare worth more in your eyes than that the Son of God?"

There was an awkward silence; then the King removed his sword, knelt at Aidan's feet and asked his forgiveness. When he returned to the banqueting table, it was with a beaming smile. Sadly, he too was to perish in battle shortly afterwards; these were violent times. Yet Oswin, whose culture demanded that he should appear all-powerful in the eyes

of his followers, had been publicly humbled by the integrity of a simple monk who had challenged his values.



August Reflection with Rev Bob

As I write this, we are in our second heat wave and it is hot, so drink plenty and take care of ourselves. We are in the middle of the school holidays, where some children will be going to the big school in September some younger people will be starting work for the first time or looking for a job and some will go on to further education, maybe at university. A time of change in an

ever changing world, recently political upheaval, court cases mainly about the individuals involved, one thing that did not receive much news was the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to the Holy Land which has seen much comment on social media those who think she was wrong to go and see for herself, the one thing that struck me was the nast comments made by people regarding not only her visit but comments that were personal about her. Something which is concerning in regard to young people and vulnerable people as well, those who make comments never realise that it will stay in the media for a long time and they may regret what they put but also can have a habit of coming back to years later as we have seen in many prominent people's lives. Jesus was often challenged by the leaders trying to catch him out and quoting the law at him all the time, like those who like to quote scripture at people in public places and on social media. We need to be aware of those who try to catch us be careful in our replies and language. Sometimes just reflect on Jesus's words as on

The Sermon on the Mount

The Beatitudes

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

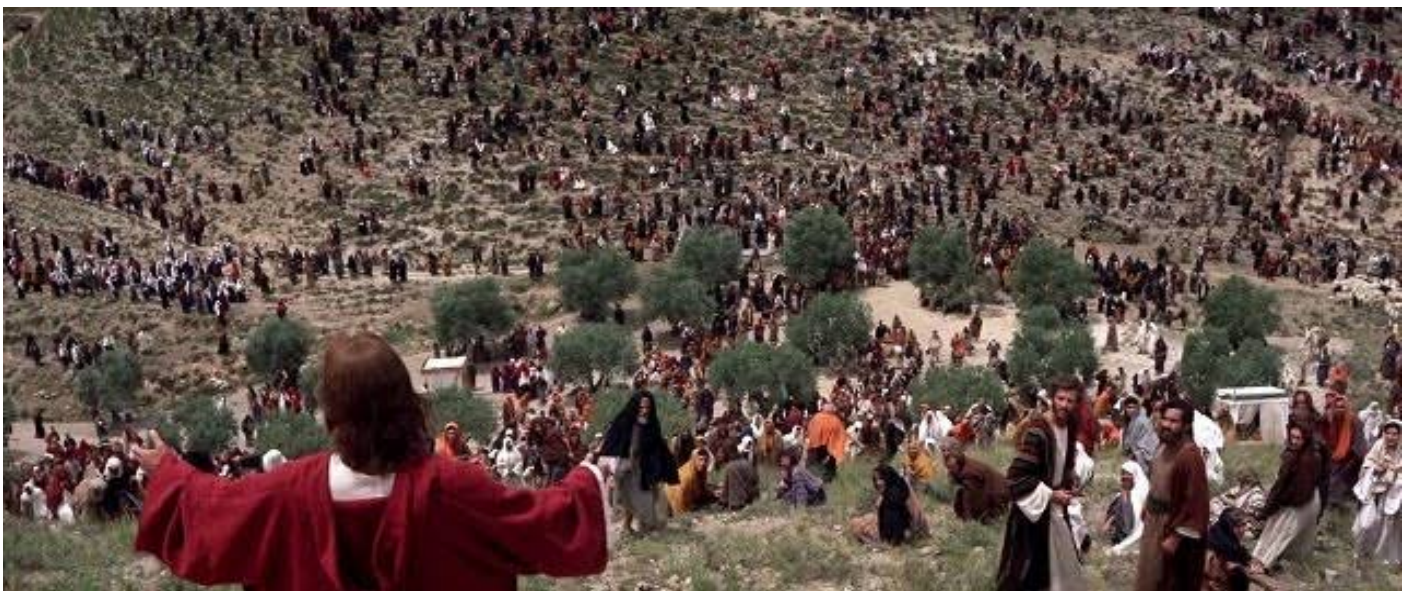
⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



Worthy is the Lamb Revelation 5:12

Our eternal worship in Heaven will be the perfect marriage of wonder filled reverence and joyful intimacy, with endless discoveries of new facets of God's beautiful character.

Exclusive hierarchies and denominations that seemed so formidable on earth, will joyfully melt away, as we come to grasp the full inclusiveness of God's redemptive plan and our shared identity in Christ. Saints, angels, and all of creation itself will join together in the cosmic tapestry of divine worship, as we dance arm in arm together around God's throne in flawless harmony, and unified eternal praise.

Hebrew Prophets, Spanish mystics, Chinese evangelists, Brazilian martyrs, Sudanese pastors, Syrian missionaries and more, will join together singing the new song to the Lamb upon the throne. Our unhindered and kingdom wide adoration will rise and rise forever, in an upward spiral of love and devotion without end.

The effect of our heavenly worship will be dynamically transformative, perpetually fuelling deeper awe, intimacy, and understanding of God through an endless cycle of encounter and response.

As each glimpse into God's nature elicits a higher and more energetic response from us, our escalating praise will spark even greater disclosure and manifestations of God's glory, which in turn will lift our worship to greater heights, and on and on for eternity in thrilling reciprocal motion.

Worship shall become the language of romance as well as reverence, and all of this shall further fuel our inner transformation into Christ-likeness.

The fixity of our gaze on Jesus's face in worship shall morph us to share his resplendent Holy likeness, and the more we grow like him, the more we will grasp the worthiness of his unequalled excellencies, and the majesty of his multifaceted beauty on full display.

We will experience the heights and breadths of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as God delights to reveal himself to us for unbroken ages to

come. God bless you,

Daniel Newton



Warm Welcome Spaces

The weather may be warm but are you always assured of a warm welcome?

St Mary's Church is registered as a Warm Welcome Space. As a Warm Welcome Space, St Mary's wants everyone to find a place of belonging and reconnection; the opportunity to make new friends and to connect with the wider community. It can all start by sharing a cuppa. Why not come

along on a Thursday morning for Tea & Toast?

You can find out more by at:

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk>

**WE ARE A
WARM
WELCOME
SPACE**



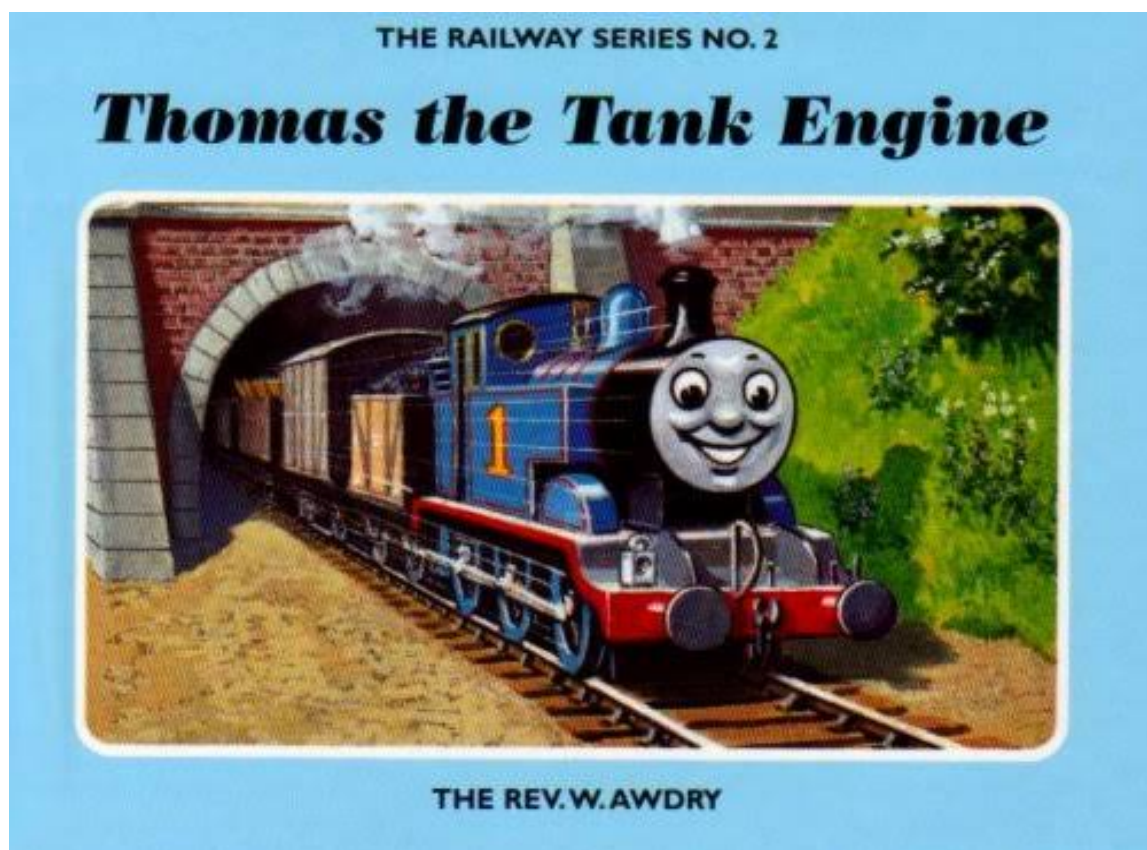
Clergy who like railways Rev Wilbert Awdry (Thomas the Tank Engine and other stories)

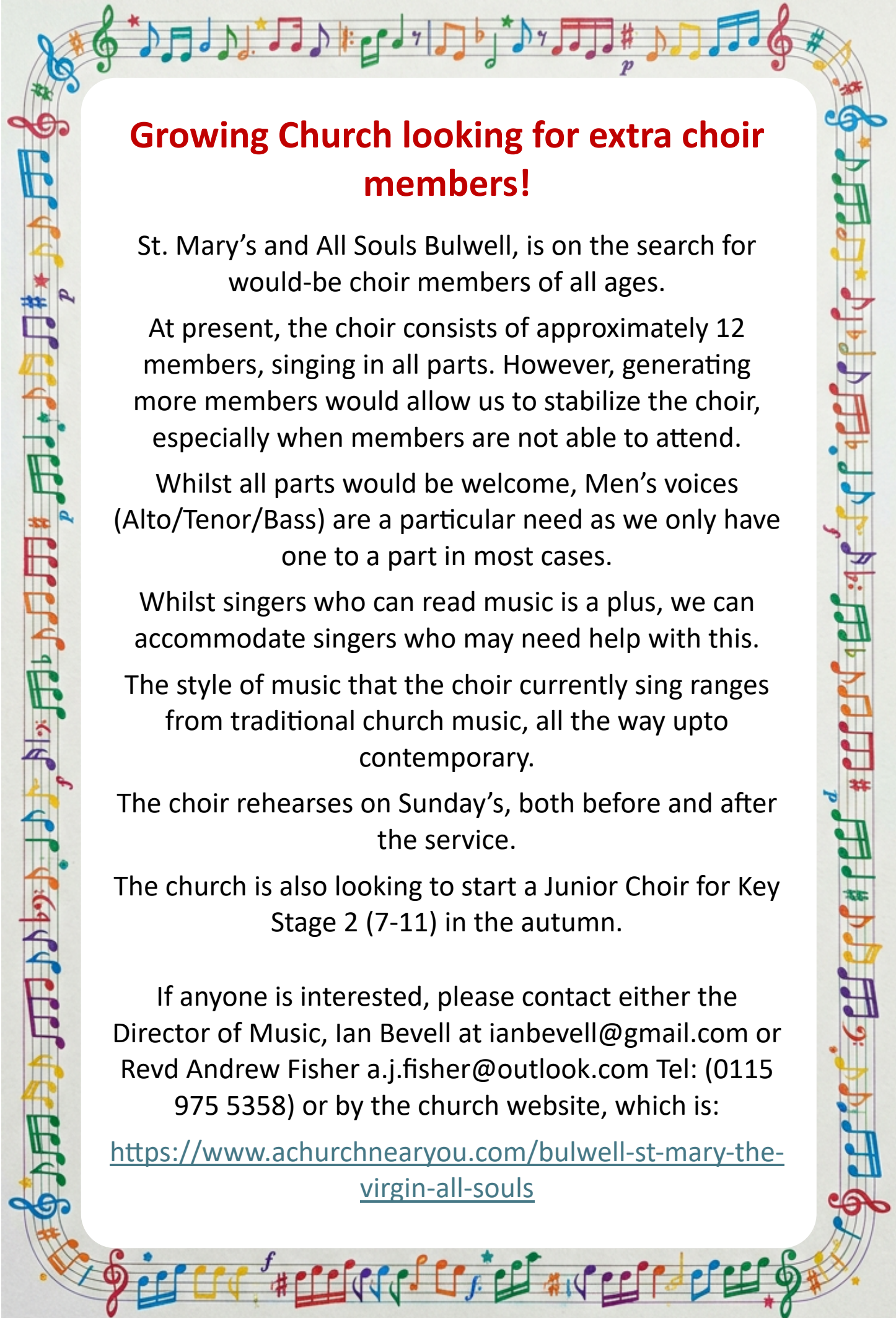


Wilbert Awdry was born at Ampfield vicarage near Romsey, Hampshire, on 15 June 1911. As a toddler at Ampfield, he saw his father construct a handmade 40-yard (37 m), 2.5-inch-gauge (64 mm) model railway. In 1917, the family moved to Box, in Wiltshire, moving again within Box in 1919 and in 1920, the third house being "Journey's End" (renamed from "Lorne Villa"), which remained the family home until August 1928. "Journey's End" was only 200 yards (180 m) from the western

end of Box Tunnel, where the Great Western Railway main line climbs at a gradient of 1 in 100 for 2 miles (3.2 km). A banking engine was kept there to assist freight trains up the hill. Those trains usually ran at night, and the young Awdry could hear them from his bed, listening to the coded whistle signals between the train engine and the banker, as well as the sharp bark from the locomotive exhausts as they fought their way up the incline. When Awdry lay in bed he described the sound of the engines: "It needed little imagination", he wrote, "to hear, in the sounds the train engine and banking engine made, what they were saying to each other." "There was no doubt in my mind that steam engines all had definite personalities. I would hear them snorting up the grade and little imagination was needed to hear in the puffing and panting's of the two engines the conversation they were having with one another." There was the inspiration for the story of Edward helping Gordon's train up the hill, a story that Wilbert first told his son Christopher some 25 years later, and which appeared in the first of the Railway Series books. Awdry taught for three years from 1933 to 1936 at St George's School, Jerusalem, then

part of Mandatory Palestine. He was ordained to the Church of England diaconate in 1936 and subsequently the priesthood. In 1938, he married Margaret Emily Wale (1912 – 21 March 1989). In 1940, he took a curacy at St Nicolas Church, Kings Norton, Birmingham, where he lived until 1946. He subsequently moved to Cambridgeshire, serving as rector of Elsworth with Knapwell (1946–1950), rural dean at Bourn (1950–1953) and then vicar of Emneth, Norfolk (1953–1965). He retired from full-time ministry in 1965 and moved to Rodborough in Stroud in Gloucestershire. Where in his words he continued in Private Practice The characters that would make Awdry known, and the first stories featuring them, were invented in 1942 to amuse his son Christopher during a bout of measles. After Awdry wrote *The Three Railway Engines*, he built Christopher a model of Thomas, and some wagons and coaches, out of a wooden broomstick and scraps of wood. Christopher also wanted a model of Gordon, but the wartime shortage of materials limited Awdry to making a little 0-6-0 tank engine. Awdry said, "The natural name was Thomas – Thomas the Tank Engine". Then Christopher requested stories about Thomas, which duly followed, and were published in 1946, in the book *Thomas the Tank Engine*. One of the first books I had to read and of course the illustrations. – *Rev Bob Stephens*





Growing Church looking for extra choir members!

St. Mary's and All Souls Bulwell, is on the search for would-be choir members of all ages.

At present, the choir consists of approximately 12 members, singing in all parts. However, generating more members would allow us to stabilize the choir, especially when members are not able to attend.

Whilst all parts would be welcome, Men's voices (Alto/Tenor/Bass) are a particular need as we only have one to a part in most cases.

Whilst singers who can read music is a plus, we can accommodate singers who may need help with this.

The style of music that the choir currently sing ranges from traditional church music, all the way upto contemporary.

The choir rehearses on Sunday's, both before and after the service.

The church is also looking to start a Junior Choir for Key Stage 2 (7-11) in the autumn.

If anyone is interested, please contact either the Director of Music, Ian Bevell at ianbevell@gmail.com or Revd Andrew Fisher a.j.fisher@outlook.com Tel: (0115 975 5358) or by the church website, which is:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/bulwell-st-mary-the-virgin-all-souls>

Update from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Dear all,

Further to the email I sent in April regarding the Diocesan Safeguarding (DST), please find below a further update.

Julian Hodgson has retired from his role as Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) after an extended period of sick leave. Julian has made a significant contribution to our Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) over the last six years, initially on a seconded basis, building on his leadership of the DST in Derby. During his time with us he played a key role in the ongoing development of the team and in the early adoption of MyConcern as our casework managements system. He leaves with our prayers for his next season as he seeks a different pace of life. As we look to build on Julian's work over the last six years, we will be advertising a replacement to lead the DST into their next season.

I am pleased to confirm Danielle Brown will join us in early September to succeed Lucy Grimsey as Assistant DSO. Danielle worked in probation for over 20 years, latterly as a Senior Probation Officer. For the last four years she has been a Senior Lecturer in Community Justice at De Montfort University, working as Module Leader on the Professional Qualification in Probation (PQiP) programme. She is actively involved in the life of her local church. We look forward to welcoming Danielle to the DST in September.

To provide additional support for the Team over the summer, I am pleased to confirm Elisha Ward will working with us on a flexible basis and will act as a reference point for case issues, on average for two days a week. Elisha is an Independent Social Worker and safeguarding specialist who has previously worked as an Allegations Officer, Independent Chair and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). She previously worked with us as Lead Reviewer for the Past Cases Review (PCR) 2.

I continue to work closely with Sally Hodges, as Independent DSAP Chair, and Gemma Barber, as Regional Safeguarding Lead, to draw on wider support and advice. I remain deeply grateful to the members of the DST, including our sessional trainers, for their flexibility and hard work in ensuring we continue to provide the best service possible.

Thank you for all you are doing to ensure good safeguarding practice across the Diocese.

Best regards,

Martin Cooper

Chief Executive

Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Jubilee House, Westgate,

Southwell, NG25 0JH

southwell.anglican.org



St. Joseph of Cupertino – “The Flying Friar”

Joseph was born in 1603 at Cupertino near Naples. His father was a poor carpenter and died before his birth. His mother being unable to pay the debts lost her home and gave birth to Joseph in a stable.

God often calls those, who with human eyes, seem least likely. Joseph was no exception, he was a slow learner who would wander around aimlessly with his mouth wide open. His peers mocked him, today we would call him neurodivergent.

After training he failed to become a shoemaker but the Lord had greater plans for him.

After his second attempt to join the Franciscan monastery, he was accepted. The Holy Spirit now started to work in him, he became more prayerful, humble and devoted. He was a good and holy friar but still struggled with his studies. This did not stop him though from being ordained a deacon and then later a priest. He was consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and promoted devotion to her as a wonderful path to Jesus.

Now the Holy Spirit began to work amazing miracles through him. He would rise up from the ground while praying or offering mass. Sometimes just the mere mention of heavenly things was enough to send him soaring, even up to the church roof. This happened so many times that the Church gave up on trying to document each one.

All these manifestations were only meant to glorify God, sadly many curiosity seekers only came to see the man, their hearts were far from his Creator. This resulted in the church moving St. Joseph to more remote monasteries, away from the public eye.

He was happy to be alone with his beloved Lord.

He died in 1663 on the 18th of September, his feast day and was canonized in 1767.



St. Joseph of Cupertino is the patron saint of students and air travellers.

— *Les Ward*

Church of England's role in historical adoption practices

You may be aware of the apology issued for the Church of England's role in historical adoption practices. Several mother and baby homes, or similar, were overseen by diocesan Moral Welfare Councils as part of a wider network of provision for unmarried mothers and babies, particularly in the years between 1949 and 1976. There has been growing awareness in recent years of practices within these homes and their outcomes for mothers and their babies, with nine believed to have operated within the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, and been affiliated with the Church of England to some extent.

Further information on the research and apology, and support, is available here: www.churchofengland.org/adoption

The Church of England played a significant role as part of a wider system shaped by social attitudes and legislation which often stigmatised unmarried mothers. The apology reflects the deep sorrow felt by church leaders for the pain, trauma and stigma experienced – and still carried – by many of the people affected. Whilst the policy of the Church of England's Moral Welfare Council was to encourage mothers and babies to be kept together where possible, we recognise that this guidance was not always upheld in practice within individual homes. Some mothers have described harsh and unkind treatment whilst resident in Church of England-affiliated homes, while others were not given a meaningful choice about whether to keep their baby.

We recognise the impact this may have on people living in our parish, now and in the future. While the number of those affected is unknown, some people in St Mary's congregation and parish may have been affected in some way - as mothers, adoptees, or perhaps as those who were employed in the homes. For some, there may be a wish to tell their stories and to be heard by the clergy or wider church family. For others, there may be a need for more specialist support, and I would encourage you to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at:

historicaladoption@southwell.anglican.org

The Diocese recognises that this has a complex and wide-ranging history, with very different experiences, and the apology from the Church does not seek to make a blanket judgement on everyone involved or the motivations of those who worked and cared for others at the time, including those who worked in the homes and adoptive families.

Fr Andrew Fisher



Nottingham Hospital Choir 4th July

Please find attached snap from tonight's Nottingham Hospitals Summer Choir for the Hill, Mirror and St Mary's Facebook page. With thanks to the Choir and the folk who helped organise and support the Concert and our local NHS.





If you would like yourself or a loved one to be prayed for, please speak with/contact St Mary's Pastoral Visitor,

Jackie Bramford,
jackiebramford@hotmail.co.uk

or Daniel Newton
newtondaniel826@gmail.com.



Re: safeguarding/data protection. If you are requesting prayer for somebody other than yourself, please obtain the person's permission in the first instance. Failing that, give their first name only. Any details about health matters should only be shared with the person's permission. Where an individual is seriously ill or not an adult, this permission may be given by the person's caregiver, guardian or family member.

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

5th July

Julian Wood – Renewal of Baptism Vows



Funerals

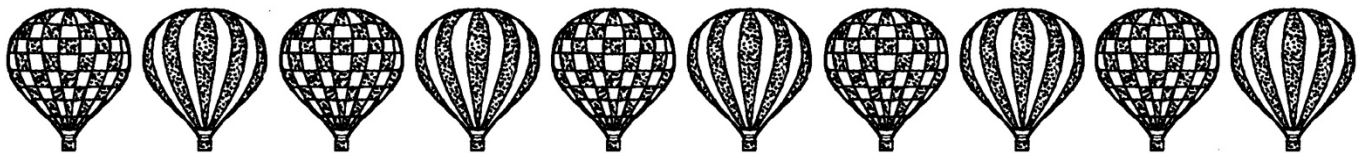
7th July

Brian Bennett RIP (St Mary's and Bramcote Crematorium)

Weddings

10th July

Simon and Debbie Radford – Renewal of Wedding Vows



Confirmation Services 2026



Confirmation is a special service in which folk confirm the promises that been made when they were baptized. During the service the bishop lay's his hands on the candidates' heads and ask God's Holy Spirit to give them the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of his life. See:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmation>

If you would like to be Confirmed please speak with Fr Andrew, Rev Bob or Zoe.



The Aumbry Lamp

The Aumbry Lamp is the 7-day candle that burns before the aumbry in the Lady Chapel, announcing the Sacramental Presence of Our Lord in the aumbry. Sponsoring the aumbry lamp is a wonderful way to show gratitude for answered prayer, or as a tangible way to

extend our petitions before God. Lamp sponsorship covers the cost of a candle for one month and can be sponsored for just £10 for a month. Please speak with Fr Andrew if you would like to sponsor St Mary's aumbry lamp.

The Aumbry Lamp has been kindly sponsored from January 2026 to June 2026 in prayerful memory of Norah who passed away in 2024. Carol and Brian Butler have kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp from July 2026 to August 2026. Mavis Polkey has kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp for September 2026 in prayerful memory of Alan Polkey who passed away in 2019. Ann Hotson has kindly sponsored the Aumbry Lamp for December 2026 in prayerful memory of Ray Hotson who passed away in 2025.



Holy water in church

Congregation members have asked Fr Andrew if St Mary's has a supply of holy water for folk to use or take away. There is a stoup by the south porch entrance with which folk can cross themselves with as they enter and leave the church building, and a holy water urn folk can fill any suitable small bottles with (please bring your own bottle).



If you're looking for a place to meet new people, get plugged into your local community, boost your wellbeing, and support a worthy cause, then look no further! Here

are different ways you can get involved by volunteering with St Mary's church today.

Gardening

St Mary's Church is set in beautiful grounds, maintained by the Council and volunteers. There is something hands-on to do in every season, from planting and weeding to cutting grass and raking.

Food Bank

Sadly, with the cost-of-living crisis, food banks have never been more in demand. The support offered is often a lifeline to the most vulnerable members of the community. From processing donations and making up bags of food to listening and praying with people in need, there are many ways to volunteer.

Cleaning and Maintenance

All old buildings require regular attention and St Mary's is no exception! Volunteers work on all kinds of odd jobs and repair work to ensure our building can remain open and safe for the community to use. From cleaning the brass work to hoovering the carpets, painting and decorating to restoration work, there are opportunities to use your skills – or learn new ones – and help preserve our amazing building.

Welcoming

Whether it's someone who's visited the church for generations or someone coming along for the first time, a friendly face can make all the difference. Having someone on hand to welcome people and to sign post them to what they need means that people can get the help they need from their visit – and they will be more likely to recommend St Mary's to others.

Children's Groups

From St Mary's Toddler Group to the Sunday School or Muddy Church, there's always a lot happening at St Mary's church! Our children's groups rely on volunteers to welcome visitors, help with setting up and tidying away, be a listening ear and to get involved in the activities!

Hospitality

St Mary's often serves refreshments after services and is open during the week (not just on Sundays!) From cooking and baking, to serving tea and coffee or talking to guests, there's lots you can be involved in. The City Council has renewed St Mary's Food Hygiene rating - they were very impressed and have awarded St Mary's 5 Stars out of 5 Stars!



Admin and Tech Support

For St Mary's to stay open and run the range of activities we do, admin and tech support is needed. This could be managing databases, updating the church website and social media pages, or even filming or photographing an event or service St Mary's is hosting. We are looking for a volunteer to take on the position of Editor for the weekly newsletter "The Mirror". You will need a computer with internet access and an email address. You need to be able to use word processing software such as Microsoft Word, and the ability to send and receive emails, and attachments. Time commitment - around two hours a week.

Volunteers are needed to help protect the mission and ministry St Mary's offers to our communities. However you choose to volunteer, you'll be making a vital difference to the lives of others as well as helping to keep St Mary's open and in use.

St Mary the Virgin & All Souls

Church Open for Morning Prayer

Every second Saturday of the month

10am until 12pm

10:00 Divine Office

10:30-11:00 Adoration in our Lady Chapel

11:00 Holy Rosary

12:00 The Angelus

All are welcome



Highbury Road, Bulwell NG6 9AD

The Gift of Giving



What is Parish Share & why do we pay it?

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income..." (1Cor 16:2)

We are all reviewing our finances as the cost of living goes up. Churches are also reviewing their finances and are thinking how best they can pay their bills. St Mary's requires money to continue doing what we do – sharing God's love in Bulwell and beyond, and a large proportion of this money comes from our giving as a congregation. Our giving goes towards local costs such as our...

- Worship (including maintaining the organ and paying the organists, CD player/CDs and Digital Hymnal, hymn books, service books, Bibles and lectionaries, robes, candles, bells, bread and wine for Holy Communion, baptism and confirmation gifts and certificates etc).
- Heating and lighting costs, insurance premiums, water rates etc. All of which cost considerably more than a domestic home.
- Printing, photocopying, stationery, flyers, posters and postage.
- Children's work such as Whiz Kids and Muddy Church
- Community, church and social events
- School visits and assemblies
- Services in nursing homes, sheltered housing complexes and Highbury Hospital.
- Expenses incurred as part of the clergy's' ministries.
- Keeping the church, hall and grounds maintained, and arranging for regular inspections.
- Any outward, charitable giving that St Mary's makes.

Our giving also helps Southwell & Nottingham Diocese by means of our Parish Share to pay for:

- The work of the central church organisation on behalf of all the parishes. Negotiating with government departments, working with

other Churches and running the General Synod (the Church's parliament)

- the help given by Diocesan officers to parishes.
- Clergy stipends and the pensions of retired clergy and their dependents.
- Training new clergy for future service.

Each year at Deanery Synod, Treasurers, Churchwardens and Incumbents are invited to pledge their church's amount towards the Diocesan parish share. We have pledged to pay £28,656 in 2026.

Money is part of our following of Jesus. The Bible tells us that a rich man could not let go of his wealth, that Zacchaeus responded to Jesus with joyful generosity, and that St Paul challenged the church in Corinth to give generously. A healthy relationship with money is a normal part of our discipleship, and there are a variety of ways we can support the ongoing mission and ministry at St Mary's:

Envelope Scheme The Envelope scheme is an efficient way of giving, especially for taxpayers. In the packs are a numbered envelope for every Sunday of the year. This enables you to give every week even if you are away.

Standing Order Some people give monthly or weekly standing order direct from their bank account. This is a very efficient way to give to the church as there is less effort required to keep track of your giving to reclaim tax.

Gift Aid If you are a taxpayer and make a Gift Aid Declaration, St Mary's can reclaim the tax you have paid on your giving. This makes every £1.00 given worth £1.25.

Donating Gifts other than Money The rules for Gift Aid mean that the Church cannot reclaim tax from gifts other than money.

If you have any questions on the Envelope Scheme, Gift Aid, using the Blue Envelopes or wish to make a Gift Aid Declaration then please contact our Treasurer, Peter Stanley, our Churchwardens, Eleanor Lang and Martin Walton, or Fr Andrew, and above all, thank you.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.



When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus..



This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!



This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.



But Jesus said..

I will go and heal the boy.



But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.



He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed

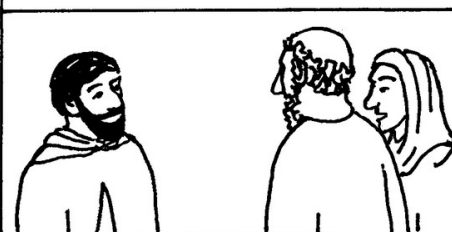


Jesus was amazed!



I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

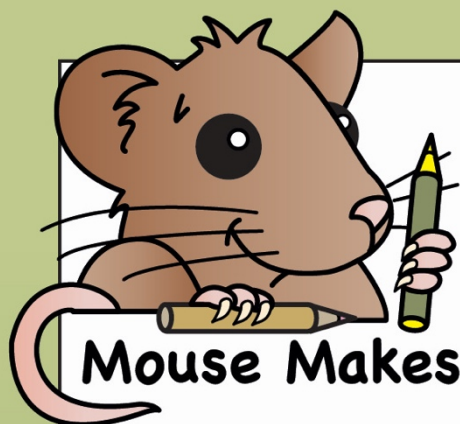
He said to the friends...



You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!





Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

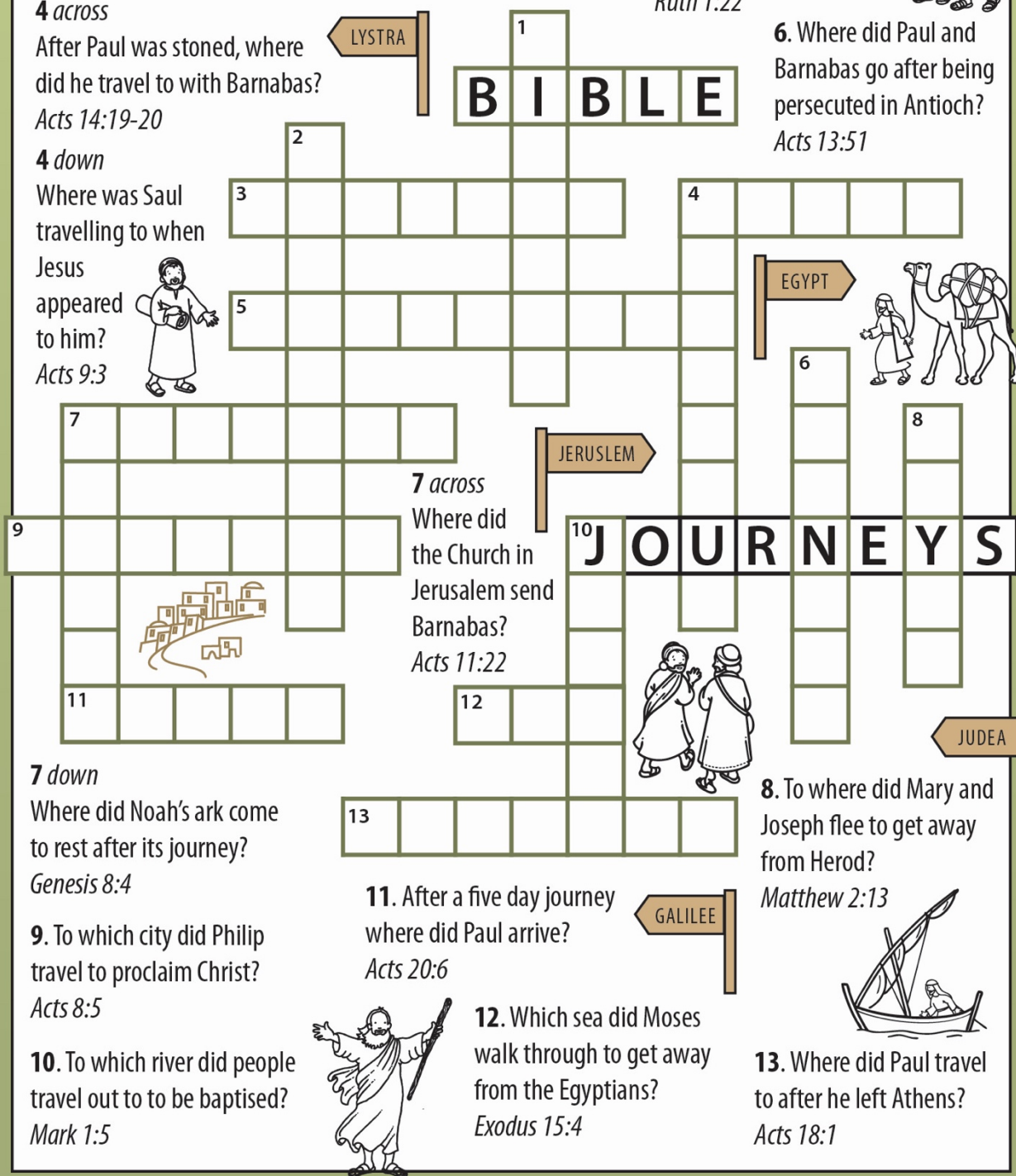
Acts 9:3



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

EGYPT



7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JERUSALEM

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

JUDEA

ORGANISATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Some meetings are term-time only – please check with organisers. Meetings are held at St Mary's church unless otherwise stated.

SUNDAY

Choir Practice Warm up 9.00am
Rehearsal after service 11.30 – noon
Please contact the Organist: 07799 331271

Farnaby & Co (First & Third in month) 7.15pm to 9.25pm

MONDAY

48th Nottingham Beavers (boys & girls, 6-8 years) 6.15pm – 7.15pm
Tel: 0115 877 6569 or 07976 300013

TUESDAY

87th Nottingham Brownies (7-10 years) 6.15pm – 7.30pm
Tel: 07596 758440

WEDNESDAY

Trefoil Guild (first Wednesday of the month) 12pm – 2pm
Tel: 0115 916 3249

Bestwood & Bulwell Foodbank 1.00 – 3.00pm Tel: 07527048226
Email: info@bestwoodbulwell.foodbank.org.uk

Polish Speaking Al- Group - Spokoj 6.15pm – 8.15pm

Bellringing (Practice Night) 7.30pm – 9pm. All ages from 11 years.
Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.
Tel: 07858653002

THURSDAY

88th Nottingham Brownies (7-10 years) 6.00pm – 7.30pm Tel: 07817 3786543

87th Nottingham Guides (10-15 years) 7.00pm – 9.00pm Tel: 07793 823440

Rangers (age 14+) 7.00pm – 9.00pm Tel: 07786 226663

Pub Social First Thursday of the Month at the William Peveril
(Wetherspoons) in Bulwell.

FRIDAY

Rainbows 5.15pm – 6.15pm Tel: 07812 160455

CONTACT DETAILS

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